

South Dakota National Guard

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SD Guard honors Sioux Valley student for courage, bravery

By Maj. Rebecca Trygstad
139th Brigade Support Battalion

VOLGA, S.D. – Battles are not just fought by those in uniform. Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Brookings-based 139th Brigade Support Battalion recognize this and presented a Sioux Valley Elementary kindergartener with the Young Hero Award, May 19.

Kaylee Loy, 6, received the Young Hero Award, which honors children who have displayed courage and bravery while battling a life threatening disease, illness or injury.

Kaylee was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in March 2014 after complaining of a continuous jaw and hip pain.

She's endured weekly chemotherapy treatments from March through November 2014 and is currently in the maintenance stage of her treatment, receiving monthly chemotherapy treatments and taking a chemo pill daily. She will continue to receive these treatments until May 2016.

The objective of the Young Hero Award, sponsored by the South Dakota Enlisted Association, is to pay tribute to the courage and dignity of real life heroes like Kaylee Loy, who has had a tremendous struggle over the past 14 months.

Kaylee received the award at the Sioux Valley Elementary School's monthly assembly and last day of school. Students from kindergarten through fifth grade were in attendance, along with many parents and community members.

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High resolution photos are available upon request.



150519-Z-ZZ999-016: Kaylee Loy, 6, is presented the Young Hero Award by members of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Brookings-based 139th Brigade Support Battalion at a ceremony at Sioux Valley Elementary in Volga, S.D., May 19, 2015. Kaylee, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia in March 2014, received the award which honors children who have displayed courage and bravery while battling a life threatening disease, illness, or injury. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Maj. Jayme Trygstad/Released)



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